

Honorable John C. Coughenour

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

TRACEY SHANFELD, an Individual,

Plaintiff,

vs.

EVERGREEN TREATMENT SERVICES, a Non-
Profit Organization,

Defendant.

No. 2:24-cv-00516-JCC

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition this Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

“Confidential” material shall include documents and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged regarding third parties.

3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as defined above), but also: (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material. However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any confidential material only to:

- (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees and independent contractor attorneys and office staff of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;
- (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in-house counsel) of the receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so designated;

- (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);
- (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;
- (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential material;
- (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;
- (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party to determine whether the designating party will remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2(d) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or

1 communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of
2 this agreement.

3 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to
4 be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber
5 or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties)
6 expose the designating party to sanctions.

7 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for
8 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties that
9 it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

10 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement
11 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, disclosure or
12 discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly so designated
13 before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

14 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and
15 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or
16 trial proceedings), the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL"
17 to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of
18 the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must
19 clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in
20 the margins).

21 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings: the parties
22 must identify on the record, during the deposition, hearing, or other proceeding,
23 all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other
24 testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within
25 fifteen days after receiving a deposition transcript, designate portions of the
transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential.

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the
exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored
the word "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or
item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall
identify the protected portion(s).

1 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If corrected timely, an inadvertent failure to designate
2 qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's right to secure
3 protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving
4 party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the
5 provisions of this agreement.
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7 **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

8 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
9 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality
10 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or
11 a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a
12 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation
13 is disclosed.

14 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding
15 confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential designations or
16 for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the
17 movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort to
18 resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to
19 the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

20 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court intervention,
21 the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Federal Rule of Civil
22 Procedure 7 (and in compliance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2(d), if applicable). The burden
23 of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those made
24 for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties)

may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party must:

- (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the subpoena or court order;
- (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and
- (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving party must immediately: (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures; (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material; (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement; and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5). This provision is not intended to modify

whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. Parties shall confer on an appropriate non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502.

10. NON-TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction. Counsel for the parties may retain copies of such documents until the expiration of all statutes of limitations for all claims that might be brought upon the facts of this case or upon the litigation itself including malpractice claims.

Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

DATED: May 29, 2025

NOLAN LIM LAW FIRM, PS

/s/ Nolan Lim

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1 DATED: May 29, 2025

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2
3 /s/ Aaron D. Bigby

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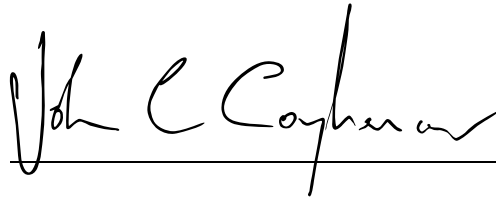
Facsimile: (206) 623-0234

Email: aaron_bigby@northcraft.com

Attorney for Defendant

8 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

9 DATED: May 30, 2025

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14 HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
15 United States District Judge
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EXHIBIT A**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on _____, 2025, in the case of *Shanfeld v. Evergreen Treatment Services*, Cause No. 2:24-cv-00516-JCC. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

(Date)

(City and State Where Sworn and Signed)

(Printed Name)

(Signature)